



Testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Shaurice, and I'm from Bridgeport, Connecticut. I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

Our children are suffering and struggling in this underfunded education system. Our kids aren't afforded the same opportunities as children in other parts of CT because of low funding. Right now our athletes don't have any programs or games to look forward to. We need funding to keep our children's attention, make up the losses due to the pandemic, and ensure our children are ready for college and beyond.

In Bridgeport, there aren't enough options for a parent trying to choose schools that meet their child's needs. I originally thought sending my son to a magnet school was the solution, but they weren't culturally aware. The next school was culturally aware and had a new building, but I then found out that they lacked the resources to teach him properly. I started to feel like I was window shopping for my son's education. When I think about the difference between Fairfield and Bridgeport school districts, I am amazed at how extremely different they are. It is a constant reminder that our kids deserve better and their schools should be fully funded. If we were funded, we would have more STEM initiatives, better sports programs, more electives, and up-to-date teaching resources in all of our schools!

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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